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"Serving Our Community"

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LOUISIANA ETHICS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

P.O. Box 4368

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February 3, 2016

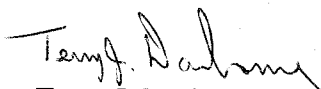
The Eunice City Marshal's Office requests an Advisory Opinion from the Louisiana Ethics Administration. This opinion request concerns the purchase of office supplies and equipment to be used by the Eunice City Marshal's Office.

The Eunice City Marshal is an elected official, defined by statute to serve as the Executive Officer of the Eunice City Court. The Eunice City Marshal operates the Eunice City Marshal's Office, which by Louisiana statute, receives dedicated funding from court cost. This funding is known as the Operational Expense Fund, and is used as Discretionary Funds for the City Marshal to operate the Eunice City Marshal's Office. Through the Operational Expense Fund, the Eunice City Marshal's Office purchases equipment, supplies, and services, from many vendors.

For many years, the Eunice City Marshal's Office has purchased office supplies and equipment from Bertrand's Printing of Eunice. Bertrand's Printing is the only office supply, equipment and stationary printing service, located in the City of Eunice. Bertrand's Printing is a family owned business, and has/is transitioning to new owners. One of the new co-owners, Mr. Jason Bertrand currently serves as an elected Eunice City Councilman. Because of this new ownership/elected official relationship, the Eunice City Marshal's Office requests an answer and/or an opinion on the following question.

- 1) If the Eunice City Marshal's Office continues to purchase office supplies and equipment from Bertrand's Printing (under co-ownership of Mr. Jason Bertrand), is this a violation of Louisiana ethics laws?
- 2) If question one is affirmed to be a violation, please provide which ethics law(s) are determined to be violated.

Respectfully yours,


Terry J. Darbonne

Eunice City Marshal